

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 2, 3, and 4. Add new claims 5-20. The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A communication apparatus ~~comprising~~including:
~~a support structure that is fastenable to a safety helmet;~~
a vibration conduction microphone ~~that is carried by the support structure; and~~
a speaker enclosure including a speaker and arranged to couple vibrations from the speaker to bone of a wearer; and
~~— that is also carried by the support structure, the vibration conduction microphone and the speaker enclosure being positioned so that,—~~
attachment means coupled to each of said microphone and said speaker enclosure to facilitate attachment to an item of headgear when the support structure is fastened to the safety helmet for placement of said microphone and speaker enclosure against the vibration conduction microphone and the speaker enclosure come into contact with a rearward portion of a the wearer's head, in use.

Claims 2-4. (canceled)

Claim 5 (new) A communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the speaker enclosure includes:
a first region to couple vibrations from the speaker to bones of the wearer's head; and
a second region to couple vibrations from said speaker element to air for conventional hearing by the wearer.

Claim 6 (New) A communication apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said speaker enclosure includes:
a housing about a speaker; and

a resilient diaphragm attached to the housing, said diaphragm comprising the first region to couple vibrations from the speaker to bones of the wearer's head;
the housing defining at least one opening comprising the second region to couple vibrations from said speaker to air for conventional hearing by the wearer.

Claim 7 (New) A communication apparatus according to claim 6, including a membrane arranged on the housing to seal the at least one opening thereby shielding the speaker from water.

Claim 8 (New) A communication apparatus according to claim 7, including an acoustically transparent cover for the first opening.

Claim 9 (New) A communication apparatus according to claim 6, including an electrical cable connected to the speaker to transmit electrical signals to the speaker, the housing defining an aperture accommodating the electrical cable and a sealant interposed between the cable and the housing, the sealant being selected to provide strain relief to the electrical cable.

Claim 10 (New) A communication apparatus according to claim 6, in which a transducer is arranged in the housing adjacent the resilient diaphragm so that the speaker enclosure can be used to pick up vibrations from the wearer as well as to transfer vibrations to the wearer.

Claim 11 (New) A communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the attachment means comprises:
a first headgear strap engagement means fast with the vibration conduction microphone to receive a strap of the headgear; and
a second headgear strap engagement means fast with the vibration conduction speaker enclosure to receive said, or an additional, strap of the headgear.

Claim 12 (New) A communication apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the first and second headgear strap engagement means include recesses formed into respective bodies of the vibration conduction microphone and the vibration conduction speaker enclosure to receive the headgear straps.

Claim 13 (New) A communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the attachment means comprises a support structure to which the vibration conduction microphone and the vibration conduction speaker enclosure are mounted.

Claim 14 (New) A communication apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the headgear comprises a helmet and wherein the attachment means is adapted to be mounted to an internal support of the helmet.

Claim 15 (New) A communication apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the headgear comprises a helmet and wherein the attachment means is adapted to be connected to a nape adjustment strap of the helmet.

Claim 16 (New) A communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the microphone includes:

- a housing;
- a transducer that is positioned in the housing; and
- an acoustic isolator that is also positioned in the housing and disposed about the transducer.

Claim 17 (New) A communication apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the acoustic isolator includes a visco-elastic material.

Claim 18 (New) A communication apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the acoustic isolator further includes a holder for holding the visco-elastic material.

Claim 19 (New) A communication apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the transducer comprises an accelerometer.

Claim 20 (New) A communication apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the housing comprises a flexible body configured to receive the accelerometer, acoustic isolator and holder.